

REMARKS

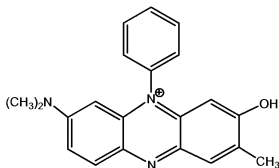
Upon entry of the present Reply, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Withdrawn claims 21-24 are cancelled herein, without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18 and 20 have been amended to address the various objections and rejections. The specification has been amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner. No new matter is believed to be included in the foregoing amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the claims contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the claims to address all of the objections, so that the claim are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3, 9, 12, 18 and 20 have been amended to address the objections.

Claim 5 does not require amendment, and Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of this claim as failing to further limit the invention of claim 1. In fact, as shown by the following example, the formula provided in claim 5 does further limit the invention described in claim 1. Claim 1 recites that the sulfur-containing compound is selected from sulfoalkylated polyethylene imines, sulfonated safranin dye, and mercapto aliphatic sulfonic acids or alkali metal salts thereof. The compound described in claim 5 does not appear to cover the sulfonated safranin dye recited in claim 1. A safranin dye has a structure:



It does not appear that this compound, if sulfonated, would correspond to the formula specified in claim 5, because, even if Y is a heterocyclic group corresponding to the safranin dye structure shown above, there would be no $-S-R^1-$ substituent as shown in the formula recited in claim 5 in such a "sulfonated safranin" formed by sulfonation of the above structure. Accordingly, claim 5 thereby further limits the sulfur-containing compound of claim 1, since it is of a more narrow scope.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw all of the rejections and objections for lack of clarity or indefiniteness under Section 112, 2nd paragraph.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Claims 21-24 have been cancelled pending the filing of one or more divisional applications.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 under Attorney Docket No. **ATOTP0110US**.

Respectfully submitted,

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